Draft Article

Here is an excellent opportunity for you to achieve two, possibly three, things. Firstly your RAN service history can be recorded for your family and your descendants to learn about your Naval career, at any future date. You may think this is of little consequence, but family members will really appreciate having access to this information. Secondly, sections of the general public will be able to learn about your contribution to our nation's history. Again, whereas you may think this is inconsequential it is important that future generations understand the extent of the contibutions that we greenies have made to our nation's security. Thirdly, you may be one of ten winners in a competition we will be conducting.

The background to this is as follows. We have a recorded history of the HO RMs, those WW2 RMs who were trained during the early to mid 1940s in the then highly secret science of what has become known as radar. We have a recorded history of the immediate post WW2 RMs from the *Torrens* era. We have a short story of the Sydney South Head HMAS *Watson* prior to its complete demolition in the late 1980s. We have a comprehensive account of RAN radar from the WW2 era, "It's Nothing To Do With Me, I'm Radar", and we have "Royal Australian Navy Radar Some Historical Notes". All material in these publications has been contributed by members of our association. However, we have nothing yet about the categories of "RMs" who followed the Torrens group. These include the REMs 1949 to 19WW, the Weapons Electrical 19WW to 19XX, the Electronics Technical C S W & P 19XX to 19YY, and the Electronics Mechanics 19YY to present day. There is therefore a compelling need to fill these gaps while memories are still active.

So, we are asking every member of our Association to contribute material for a new volume of our history. For want of a more descriptive title, let's call it "RAN Radar Technicians – Stone Age to Space Age". Specifically we would like to receive from you an article which records episodes in your service life. This can be as little as 500 words, or any length up to 5,000 words. Every article we receive <u>will</u> be included in the finished product. There may be some minor editing such as for punctuation and spelling, but by and large the syntax will remain unchanged. This is important because how we express ourselves is an illustration of our personalities, and we want these latter to come through in order to give insight to the author.

When complete, the book will have an ISBN, International Standard Book Number. There are obligations attached to having an ISBN, one being that certain organisations shall be given a copy of the publication. For example, the National Library in Canberra must receive a copy. This means that at any future date, your grandson, great grand daughter etc can read your story, and feel proud to be your descendant.

The competition will be cash awards for the 10 best articles. The judging criteria will include interest level, originality, and use of reference material. Judging will be done by persons external to our RM Association. Photos may be used to support text, but will be limited to two photos per article. There is no

limit to the number of articles you may submit. To help defray administrative costs, a nominal entry fee of $5.00 per article will be required to be paid by those submitting articles

The time schedule is planned to be as follows. Competition announced March 2009 with application forms. Articles to be submitted any time before 30 September 2009. Assessment and judging completed by 31 December 2009. Draft copy of book printed by 30 June 2010. Proof reading and limited edition of copies printed by 31 August 2010. Competition winners notified immediately prior to the 2010 RM Association Reunion.

The cash prizes will be guaranteed at not less than $100 each, and may be more depending upon what level of support can be obtained from sources other than our RM Association. Do note that even though you may not be a cash prize winner, your story will go on record for decades, maybe centuries ahead.

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